

**Montana House Committee on Agriculture**  
**Chairman Representative Lee Randall**  
**Subject: Oppose House Resolution 4 (Rep. White)**  
**March 26, 2014**

Mr Chairman, honorable members of the Committee, my name is John Gatchell. For nearly 28 years, I have worked for the Montana Wilderness Association. I appear today to represent my own thoughts, based on my observations and experience over past three decades.

I urge you to vote no on HR 4.

If heeded, H R 4 would only insure one thing—more gridlock, more paralysis in managing national forests. The amendments it requests are not wise, necessary nor viable. They would assure no action, which means no change in the current gridlock.

Passage of this bill would put Montana House on record in support of NO ACTION.

No action on wilderness and backcountry recreation areas, however deserving.

No action on logging, however badly needed to reduce fuels near communities.

No jobs in the mills and woods reinvesting in Montana's fish, wildlife and mountain watersheds.

Perhaps most damaging this bill says NO ACTION to Montana sawmill owners and operators, landowners, snowmobilers, hunters, anglers, conservationists, mountain bikers, back country horsemen, county commissioners, foresters, and all the good Montanans who worked for the past seven years to break the paralyzing gridlock on Montana's public lands.

Perhaps that's why nearly the identical resolution was tabled in February, before transmittal.

I'm not here to convince you to endorse the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. That's not necessary to see that the resolution before you offers no solutions, just more excuses for inaction and delay on issues that have prevented Montana from moving forward for decades..

In voting NO on HR 4 you have an opportunity to send a different message –

You can say the time has come for action; to roll up our sleeves, make some long-delayed decisions and get to work again on Montana forests.

If you want to END years of paralyzing gridlock -- I urge you to vote NO on HR 4.

Thank You.

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